

**Professor Mohamed Hyder on:
“Progress and the Muslim Women”**

Today I would like to speak about the Muslim woman and the ummah. Quite often, these days, it is fashionable to castigate the position of the Muslim woman in society, particularly the Muslim society. If there are Muslim communities that think that the advancement of the ummah is dependent upon the advancement of the male gender of that community then they have to go to think again and again and again.

A Muslim woman who is educated begins to produce effects upon her own way of living, her own way of interacting with other women, interacting with her husband, interacting with her children, interacting with her parents--these are important elements of the Islamic society. And in particular the effects of an educated Muslim woman has on her children is what is going to be--going to take place and to have a subliminal effect upon those children for the rest of their lives.

A woman who does not bother to pray in time will hardly find children that are going to be praying in time. A Muslim woman who doesn't recite the Quran at particular times of the day--any time of the day, can hardly induce her children to do the same. A woman who is uneducated does not know the basic element of a clean house and as we know Muslims are fastidious--pathologically fastidious--about cleanliness. It's not just cleanliness on the outside but also cleanliness on the inside. And the cleanliness on the outside rubs off on the cleanliness from the inside. These are essential features and as we know a mother, for the first 7 years of a child's life is the most influential party in the home. And those influences are the ones that are going to live with that child for the rest of his life.

There's a French scholar who said, give me a child for the first 5 years then take him away. Because he knows that the influences that would have imbedded in their subconscious mind during that particular period will live forever and if you have distorted the mind of that child then it would remain distorted for the rest of his life. If you have put it on the correct path, islamically speaking, then that child would



continue to have a happy and glorious spiritual and physical life for the rest of his life. Remember that--to think of the Muslim woman as the most important element in the advancement of the ummah. If you do not advance that Muslim woman, then forget about boasting about advancing the Muslim community.



About Professor Mohamed Hyder

Professor Mohamed Hyder has obtained a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honors at St Andrews, Scotland and PhD at Leeds, England. He worked as Professor of Zoology and Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, University of Nairobi and is now the Executive Director of Muslim Civic Education Trust -(MCET).

Dr. Hyder has presided a number of scientific bodies such as Vernacular Society, Biological Society, and Education Society at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. He is also president of the Biological Society at St Andrews University, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland.

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